

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-6, 13 and 14 are in condition for allowance subject to replacement of the term "consolidating value" in Claims 6 and 14. Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 14 and the term "consolidating valve" has been replaced by "consolidating connector." Applicant respectfully submits that said amendment overcomes the Section 112, second paragraph rejection.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Frank (U.S. Patent No. 2,009,883) and Hall (U.S. Patent No. 2,188, 506). Specifically, the Examiner has held it would be obvious to add the baffles (36) of Hall to the interior of the flue (2) of Frank.

First, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention that flue (2) of Frank is the same as the claimed beverage conduit of Claim 12.

Second, Applicant submits that the internal tubing of Frank would not allow for the placement of the internal baffles of Hall. Additionally, Applicant submits that there would be no motivation to attempt to combine Frank and Hall. Hall utilizes the baffles to direct reciprocal air flow over a plurality of tubes of uniform diameter to improve the efficiency of operation. Frank teaches the utilization of a reduction in the cross-sectional area of the pipes in the five box end (the left hand side) of the flue (2).

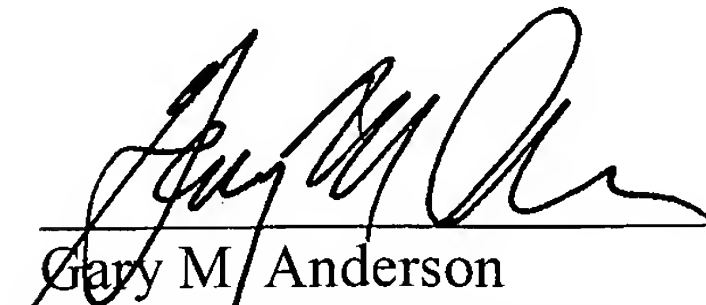
Given the different approach of Frank, Applicant submits that there would be no motivation to attempt to add the baffles of Hall. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection of Claim 12 should be withdrawn.

Finally, the Examiner has requested a copy of WO 97/10171. Applicant hereby submits a copy as requested.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 21-0800.

Respectfully submitted,

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